

WHAT IS  
1 An

1/ An audio-video managing system wherein said system comprises a plurality of audio-video apparatus, hereinafter referred to as AV apparatus, and a managing apparatus which is connected with said plurality of AV apparatus; and

5 wherein said managing apparatus comprises:

means for receiving AV apparatus information including information on functions of said AV apparatus and ranks of said functions, which is transmitted from said plurality of AV apparatus and for detecting duplicated functions existing among said plurality of AV apparatus; and

means for determining allocation so that the duplicated function is allocated to an AV apparatus having a highest rank and optimum functions are allocated to each of said plurality of AV apparatus based upon the information on the rank of said function when the presence of duplicated functions among said plurality of AV apparatus functions is detected.

2. An AV apparatus managing system as defined in Claim 1, wherein each of said AV apparatus transmits control drivers of the functions which are determined by said managing apparatus to each of said managing apparatus,

said managing apparatus comprises means for receiving the control drivers of said functions which are transmitted from each of said AV apparatus to store and hold said control drivers and for transmitting said control drivers of said functions to any

other AV apparatus which does not have said functions.

3. An AV apparatus managing system as defined in Claim 1, wherein said AV apparatus information comprises information of identification of its own AV apparatus, a number of sets of information on the functions and ranks, which number is equal to  
5 the number of functions which are possessed by its own AV apparatus, and in that said AV apparatus transmits said AV apparatus information to said managing apparatus when said AV apparatus is connected to said managing apparatus.

4. An AV apparatus managing system as defined in Claim 1, wherein said managing apparatus comprises means for inputting information which is specified by an user so that presetting of the connection mode and function allocation of said AV apparatus  
5 is rendered possible by the specification of said user.

5. An AV apparatus managing system as defined in Claim 1, wherein at least one of said plurality of AV apparatus comprises said managing apparatus.

6. An AV apparatus managing system, wherein said system comprises one or more audio-video apparatus, hereinafter referred to as AV apparatus, and a plurality of information processing apparatus being connected to one or more of said AV  
5 apparatus and having functions outputting audio and/or vide signals, and

wherein said AV apparatus selects the information processing apparatus having a highest rank function based upon

rank information of the functions possessed by this AV apparatus  
10 to transmit a control driver of said highest rank function to said  
selected information processing apparatus.

7. An AV apparatus managing system as defined in Claim 1,  
wherein said system is connected with an apparatus transferring  
data of plurality of channels so that data on each of said channels  
is reproduced by respective different AV apparatus.

8. An AV apparatus managing system as defined in Claim 1,  
wherein said system further comprises means for selecting an AV  
apparatus which performs said function in a predetermined  
selecting format when a plurality of AV apparatus have a same rank  
5 for a same function.

9. An AV apparatus managing system as defined in Claim 1,  
wherein said system further comprises at least one information  
processing apparatus which comprises said managing apparatus,  
said processing apparatus being connected to one or more of said  
5 AV apparatus and having functions outputting audio and/or video  
signals.

10. An AV apparatus managing system as defined in Claim 2,  
wherein said system further comprises at least one information  
processing apparatus which comprises said managing apparatus.

11. An AV apparatus managing system as defined in Claim 10,  
wherein said computer comprises at least one function unit which  
performs at least one function selected for at least one of the  
AV apparatus.

12. An AV apparatus managing system as defined in Claim 9, wherein said AV apparatus selects said information processing apparatus having a highest rank function based upon rank information of the functions possessed by this AV apparatus to transmit a control driver of said highest rank function to said selected information processing apparatus.

13. An audio-video managing system wherein said system comprises a plurality of audio-video apparatus, hereinafter referred to as AV apparatus, and a managing apparatus which is connected with said plurality of AV apparatus; and

wherein said managing apparatus comprises:

a managing module receiving AV apparatus information including information on functions of said AV apparatus and ranks of said functions, which is transmitted from said plurality of AV apparatus, said managing module detecting duplicated functions existing among said plurality of AV apparatus; and

an allocating module determining allocation so that the duplicated function is allocated to an AV apparatus having a highest rank and optimum functions are allocated to each of said plurality of AV apparatus based upon the information on the rank of said function when the presence of duplicated functions among said plurality of AV apparatus functions is detected.

14. An AV apparatus managing system as defined in Claim 13, wherein each of said AV apparatus comprises a communication unit transmitting control drivers of the functions which are

determined by said managing apparatus to each of said managing  
5 apparatus,

said managing apparatus comprises a communication unit  
receiving the control drivers of said functions which are  
transmitted from each of said AV apparatus to store and hold said  
control drivers, said communication unit transmitting said  
10 control drivers of said functions to any other AV apparatus which  
does not have said functions.

15. An AV apparatus managing system as defined in Claim 13,  
wherein said AV apparatus information comprises information of  
identification of its own AV apparatus, a number of sets of  
information on the functions and ranks, which number is equal to  
5 the number of functions which are possessed by its own AV  
apparatus, and in that said AV apparatus transmits said AV  
apparatus information to said managing apparatus when said AV  
apparatus is connected to said managing apparatus.

16. An AV apparatus managing system as defined in Claim 13,  
wherein said managing apparatus comprises an input unit inputting  
information which is specified by an user so that presetting of  
the connection mode and function allocation of said AV apparatus  
5 is rendered possible by the specification of said user.

17. An AV apparatus managing system as defined in Claim 13,  
wherein at least one of said plurality of AV apparatus comprises  
said managing apparatus.

18. An AV apparatus managing system as defined in Claim 13,

5 have a same rank for a same function.

19. An AV apparatus managing system as defined in Claim 13, wherein said system further comprises a selecting module selecting an AV apparatus which performs said function in a predetermined selecting format when a plurality of AV apparatus